

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs 0001-0002 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0001] The Lieder general catalogue Biology No.20E discloses prepared microscope slides. The Lieder prepared slides contain preparations of typical ~~micro-organism~~ micro-organisms, of cell division and of embryonic developments as well as of tissues and organs of plants, animals and man. The preparation ~~in~~ is placed in the ~~centers~~ center of the slide. On both sides of the slide stickers are attached on which information is written about the actual preparation. The problem with the stickers is that they can be pulled off or the sticker's adhesive may deteriorate and loose its holding force. ~~of the sticker.~~

[0002] The U.S. Patent ~~6,381,031~~ 6,381,031 discloses a test slide for the calibration, characterization, standardization, use and study of photon and electron microscopes. The slide is created by forming patterns with specific types of geometries on suitable substrates and these slides provide a standard for comparison of image forming capability of any type of microscope imaging system including, without limitation, light, UV, and X-ray photon microscopical imaging systems operating in transmission or reflection modes, and other microscope techniques. Microscopists can employ one of these slides to compare images of the slide which have been produced by the microscope system under consideration with a known, accurate, image of the slide to better understand the fidelity and accuracy of the microscope system under consideration. The test patterns can also comprise reference images which can be images created by a graphic artist or the like or which can be actual images of samples, these images being either two dimensional or three dimensional.

Please replace paragraphs 0006-0010 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0006] A combination is disclosed in WO 1999053357, which comprises a slide suitable for optical microscopy to which a specimen is applied and an optically transparent cover adhered to

the slide over the specimen, wherein the cover comprises: an optically transparent polymeric film having opposite first and second major surfaces[[:]] and a contact responsive adhesive on the first major surface and in contact with the slide.

[0007] The European Patent Application EP 1 034 450 relates to a sample holder which can process data. The inventive sample holder has two areas[[:]]: a first area for receiving the sample and a second area for identifying the sample. ~~Said~~ The second area is provided with a writeable, readable, non-volatile memory, for example a smart chip.

[0008] The German Patent Application DE 101 54 843 refers to a method and devices for the cross-referencing of identification of object supports, for microtomed analytical samples still to be mounted thereon, with identification information for a support of a tissue sample which is not yet microtomed. The conventional problem of cross-referencing is improved in a simple manner, whereby the identification information for the support is automatically generated during the very allocation in the microtome and an identification, corresponding thereto, is automatically transferred to at least one object support and that finally ~~said~~ the object support[[:]] provided with the identification is given for the application of the microtomed tissue sample at the moment when a microtomed tissue sample must be applied to an object support.

[0009] The German Patent Application DE ~~199-054490~~ 199 05 490 discloses a detachable labeling device for slides comprising a stainless steel clip gripping slide readily slipped on and off, displaying an automatically-produced barcode label. A detachable label is not suitable for use in a teaching environment.

[0010] It is therefore the object of the present invention to describe a microscope slide for educational purposes which is durable, avoids damage and reduces the risk of pollution of the preparation by the user.

Please replace paragraphs 0012-0014 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0012] The above object is as well solved by a microscope slide comprising: a transparent material in a rectangular shape, at least a first, a second and a third area defined on the microscope slide, wherein the first area carries a preparation and the second and the third area areas are provided with a non-transparent coating, a plurality of printed characters are carried on the second non transparent layer and a printed representation of the preparation on the microscope slide is provided on the third non transparent coating.

[0013] The above object is also solved by a microscope slide for educational purposes comprising: a transparent material in a rectangular shape, at least a first, a second and a third area defined on the microscope slide, wherein the first area carries a preparation, the second area is provided with a non-transparent layer wherein a plurality of printed characters are carried on the second non transparent coating, and the third area carries a sticker on which a printed representation of the preparation on the microscope slide is shown.

[0014] It is ~~advantages[[],]~~ advantageous that the plurality of printed characters on the at least one transparent layer comprises readable information. It is ~~as well advantages[[],]~~ also advantageous that the plurality of printed characters on the at least one transparent layer comprises readable information and machine readable information. The machine readable information can be in the form of a barcode, which would ease keeping track ~~record~~ of the microscope slides in an educational facility.

Please replace paragraph 0018 with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Fig. 1a shows schematically a top view of one embodiment of an inventive microscope slide 2. The microscope slide 2 is made of a transparent material and has a rectangular shape. The rectangular shape of the microscope slide 2 defines a length L and a width W . The microscope slide 2 has a top surface 4 and a bottom surface 6 (see Fig. 1b). A first area 8 and a second area 10 are defined on the top surface 4 of the microscope slide 2. A dashed line 11

marks the border between the first area 8 and the second area 10. The first area 8 carries a preparation 12, which is ~~eovers~~ covered with a cover slip 13 and the second area 10 is provided with a non-transparent layer 14. The non-transparent layer 14 carries a plurality of printed characters 16. The non-transparent layer 14 can be embodied as a ~~coloured~~ colored etching or a ~~coloured~~ colored coating. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the printed characters 16 are in readable ~~from~~ form only. The second area 10 is spaced apart from the edges of the microscope slide 2.

Please replace paragraph 0020-0021 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0020] Fig. 3 shows a third embodiment of a microscope slide 2 according to the present invention. The microscope slide 2 defines three distinct areas. A first area 8 of the microscope slide 2 is provided for the preparation 12 which is covered with a cover slip 13. Additionally, the microscope slide 2 has a second area 10 and a third area 18. The second area 10 is provided with a non-transparent layer 14 ~~as well~~. On the third area 18 a sticker 22 is provided on which a printed representation 24 of the preparation 12 on the microscope slide 2. Preferably, printed representation 24 may accurately depict preparation 12 to include color(s) present in preparation 12. As already shown in Fig. 2 the second area 10 with the non-transparent layer 14 and the sticker 22 are arranged on the opposite ends 2a and 2b of the microscope slide 2. The printed sticker 22 is being attached to the microscope slide 2 with an adhesive 25.

[0021] Fig. 4 shows an embodiment for the arrangement of the second area 10 on the microscope ~~slide2~~ slide 2. Here the non-transparent layer 14 is extended to the one opposite end 2a. The non-transparent layer 14 is extended as well to each of the longitudinal sides 2c and 2d of the microscope slide. As already mentioned above, the non-transparent layer 14 on the first second area carries a plurality characters in readable and/or in machine readable form.

Please replace paragraphs 0023-0024 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0023] Fig. 6 is a top view of a further embodiment of the microscope slide 2, wherein microscope slide 2 has rounded corners 28. The at least one non-transparent layer 14, which is provided on at least one opposite end 2a or 2b of the microscope slide 2, ~~provide~~ provides a gripping ~~are~~ area for the user of the microscope slide 2 and the rounded corners 28 reduce the risk of any injuries. Fig. 6 shows an additional embodiment of the plurality of printed characters 16 on the non-transparent layer 14. The characters are in readable form and in addition to that characters in machine readable form are added. The characters in machine readable form are represented by a barcode 26. It is well known in the art that printed characters, such as but not limited to bar codes, may be printed in one color. More preferably, that one color is black. The In the embodiment shown in Fig. 6, two non-transparent coatings 14 provided on opposite ends 2a and 2b of the microscope slide 2. It has to be understood that the arrangement shown here is only one example and should not be regarded as a limitation of the scope of the invention.

[0024] Fig. 47 is a top view of a further embodiment of the arrangement of the non-transparent coatings 14. The ~~transparent~~ non-transparent coatings 14 have rounded corner 30 on the side which is facing the first area 8 of the microscope slide.

Please replace paragraphs 0026-0028 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0026] Fig. 9 is an embodiment of the microscope slide 2 with a rounded edge 34. The rounded edge ~~32~~ 34 surrounds the whole microscope slide 2.

[0027] Fig. 10 is an embodiment of the microscope slide 2 with a triangular edge 36. The triangular edge ~~32-36~~ surrounds the whole microscope slide 2.

[0028] Fig. 11 is an embodiment of the microscope slide 2 with a trapezoidal edge 38. The trapezoidal edge ~~32-38~~ surrounds the whole microscope slide 2.